



OUR MISSION:

*Living and telling the good news of Jesus Christ,
reaching out to all in love and service.*

OUR VISION:

To be an outward looking Church

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

28th April 2024

*Divine Vine Grower, we give thanks
for your perfect love. Please accept
the offering of our good fruit.
Form us and reshape us so that we
may bear more fruit and, in so
doing, glorify you. Amen.*



Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4.10–11

Prayer of the Day: O God, form the minds of your faithful people, that we may love what you command and desire what you promise, so that, amid the many changes of this world, our hearts may there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings: This Sunday

Acts 8.26-40

Ps 22.26-32

1 John 4.7-21

John 15.1-8

Next Sunday

Acts 8.26-40

Ps 22.26-32

1 John 4.7-21

John 15.1-8

Sunday Services in our Region

- **Gympie** - St Peter's ► 8.30 am ► 5.30 pm
- **Rainbow Beach** - Good Shepherd Church ► 9.30 am
- **Tin Can Bay** - St John Vianney's Catholic Church ► 7.30 am
(1st & 2nd Sunday's)

Prayers

Pray for the Church:

Worldwide: *The Church of Bangladesh*

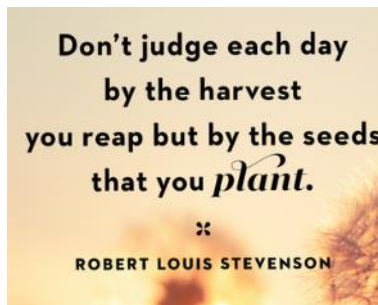
Our Diocese: ● *The Parish of Roma* ● *Anglicare SQ Remote and Rural Community Services*

Local:

MU Prayer Point: *Gracious Lord, we pray for members in the Diocese of Muhabura in Uganda as they seek to be faithful to your word and promote Christian family values through their parenting program, prison ministry, and hospital visitation so they can support stable family life. We also pray for the Diocese of the Northern Territory so that they will be able to continue to witness to God's love. Amen.*

Ministry: *MU Ministry*

In Need: *Azzrah; Nicholas Barrett; Bruce Barton; Northa Burnett; Val Deans; Joyce Gall; Allan Gall; Peter Gall; Baby Louis; Jenny; Graham McClurg; Smith Family: Robbie, Lisa and children; Shirley Summerville*



Parish Calendar

28/4 4 th Sunday	29/4 5 th Monday	30/4 5 th Tuesday	31/4 5 th Wednesday	2/5 1 st Thurs	3/5 1 st Fri	4/5 1 st Sat
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 8.30 am St Peter's 9.30 am Rainbow Bch 5.30 pm St Peter's & Zoom	9.30-12 Mainly Music	5.00 pm Meditation @ St. P	Noon Service @ St P			
5/5 1 st Sunday	6/5 1 st Monday	7/5 1 st Tuesday	8/5 2 nd Wednesday	9/5 2 nd Thurs	10/5 2 nd Fri	11/5 2 nd Sat
6th Sunday of Easter 7.30 am Tin Can Bay: 8.30 am St Peter's-Kidz BAPTISM Church 9.30 am Rainbow Bch: 5.30 pm St Peter's & Zoom	LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	5.00 pm Meditation @ St. P	Noon Gympie Minister's Network meeting Noon Service @ St P			



This Week's Readings

A reading from Acts 8.26-40

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹ He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' ³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

(Pause for reflection)

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 22.26-32

²⁶ From you springs my praise in the great congregation:

I will pay my vows in the sight of all that fear you;

²⁷ **The meek shall eat of the sacrifice and be satisfied:**

and those who seek the Lord shall praise him—

may their hearts rejoice for ever!

²⁸ Let all the ends of the earth remember

and turn to the Lord:

and let all the families of the nations worship before him.

²⁹ **For the kingdom is the Lord's:**

and he shall be ruler over the nations.

³⁰ How can those who sleep in the earth do him homage:

or those that descend to the dust bow down before him?

³¹ **But he has saved my life for himself:**

and my posterity shall serve him.

³² This shall be told of my Lord to a future generation:

and his righteousness declared to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

A reading from 1 John 4.7-21

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

(Pause for reflection)

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

The Holy Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 15.1-8

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

¹ 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

(Pause for reflection)

Hear the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Reflection

Beloved, Be Loved, Be Love

When we trust God, when we abide in God, the love of God revealed in Jesus bears much fruit in us, and our relationships with God and one another. Meetings become holy encounters when we meet others with a spirit of love, mutuality, and interdependence.

Acts 8:26–40 narrates an encounter that recalls Jesus' final instructions to his disciples: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The Ethiopian eunuch reads Isaiah 53:7–8 from the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible. In their interaction, the two figures question each other. One is not exclusively in possession of answers; understanding comes via mutuality. This exchange is holy dialogue. This story follows a pattern similar to that of Luke 24 (from two weeks ago) in which participation in a sacred act follows an understanding of scripture. In Luke 24, that act is the sharing of bread. Here that act is baptism.

While **Psalm 22:25–31** is effusive in praise, Psalm 22 is a psalm of lament. It begins with words made familiar by Jesus from the cross: "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?" As is usual with psalms of lament, the speaker expresses both deep despair and vast praise. Verses 3–5 give shape to the hope that permeates verses 25–31. The holy and trustworthy God who delivered the ancestors will deliver those who trust God in the present and the future. The story of the people's past is the hope of their future.

1 John 4:7–21 is full of love. Of the text's fifteen verses, twelve contain the word love at least once. Asserted repeatedly is that God loves us; therefore, we must love others, even so far as to be the same love: love of God is love of others (vv. 20–21). These verses also focus, like John 15, on abiding, including a beautifully intricate weaving together of love and abide in verse 16 that illustrates both textually and conceptually their intimate connectedness.

John 15:1–8 begins, "I am the true vine," one of several statements in John where Jesus speaks of himself using a metaphor that begins "I am..." Last week's text included another of these statements: "I am the good shepherd" (10:11a). This text echoes the parable of the fig tree in Luke 13:6–9, as well as sharing imagery with Matt 3:7–10 and 7:15–20.

Metaphor invites a multiplicity of interpretation and layers in meaning. This particular metaphor appeals through its accessibility: the purpose of cutting down and pruning vegetation is as it always has been.

Yet, we must be mindful in interpreting this metaphor of the role in which we place ourselves. The identity of vine grower is clear. We are invited to examine, individually and communally, the condition of our vineyard and how we might improve its health. However, we are not invited to call upon the metaphor in ways that perpetrate harm or oppression under the guise of "cutting off an unproductive branch."

Another significant feature of this text is the recurrence of abiding. This abiding is thick with significance. It is to be secure, deeply attached, close, loyal, and continue in a particular state or action. It conveys mutuality, togetherness over individualism, interdependence. This interdependence with the vine grower promises to be a relationship that will continuously shape, form, and re-form us.



God is love, and our love finds its origin in that God, that love. It is the foundation of relationship, with God and with others. This love is a commandment, and it expects us to bear fruit. What fruits have grown and are growing from our love of God?

Connecting scripture and life

- As we examine the church, what ministries may need pruning so new and more abundant fruit can grow?
- What rituals might we establish to bless these changes, to mark the pruning of what has borne fruit but needs to be re-shaped and re-formed?
- How do we create opportunities and safe places for people to express both their greatest hope and their deepest despair?

NEWS AND NOTICES

NEW BISHOP FOR THE NORTHERN REGION ANNOUNCED

Excerpts of Ad Clerum from the Archbishop follow:

“Following considerable prayer and with the concurrence of the Diocesan Council I am pleased to announce that the Reverend Canon Sarah Plowman has accepted my invitation to be an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Brisbane and to serve as Bishop for the Northern Region.

Sarah is well known across the Diocese. She has been active in the Diocese of Brisbane throughout her life. As a young person, her faith was nurtured in the Parish of Nambour and she went on to graduate from St Margaret’s Anglican Girls School. Since her ordination Sarah has served in the following ministries:

Chaplain All Saints' Anglican School 2004-06; PTO Wynnum 2006-08;

Associate Chaplain, Anglican Church Grammar School 2008-09;

Chaplain, Cannon Hill Anglican College 2009-19; Honorary Canon, St John’s Cathedral 2014-18; Residentiary Canon, St John's Cathedral 2018-20;

Mission Chaplain - Director of Ordinands and Vocations 2020-21;

Mission Chaplain, Director of Discernment and Formation from September 2021; and Honorary Canon, St John's Cathedral from 2021. “

“It is my intention, God willing, to consecrate Sarah as a Bishop in the Church of God at the opening Eucharist of the Diocesan Synod on Friday 21 June 2024, at 7.00 pm. We will observe the Feast of St Alban (22 June) at that Synod Eucharist.

Please join me in praying for Sarah and her family as she prepares for this important new ministry in the life of the Diocese.

Yours in Christ

The Most Reverend Jeremy Greaves KCSJ

Archbishop of Brisbane “

The full Ad Clerum is on the notice board for perusal



BAPTISM 5th May & Special Mother’s Day Celebration

On Sunday, 5th May the Dan and Tammy Evans and family will join us for the baptism of Nova in Peter’s Church at 8.30 am.



MU CARDS GREETING CARDS:

MU have a lovely selection of cards, for all occasions, on display at the back of St Peter’s. Each Card is 50 cents. Thank you for your support.

WELCOME LIBBY SCHMIDT

We are pleased to welcome Libby to St Peter's today as our Musician for the morning service. Thank you Libby for joining us. 😊

Sunday, 28th April at 2pm

A Celebration of Song

A fundraising concert
presenting four fabulous local Choirs
& featuring soloist Noah Skuse

James Nash Performing Arts Theatre
James Nash SHS, 109 Myall St, Gympie

...presented by...
...presenting artists to both home & overseas...

Entry: \$20 / \$15

Book with humanitix.com
or Ph 0488774950

Afternoon Tea, Raffle & Jewellery Sales



CHRISTIAN RI ALLIANCE FUNDRAISING DINNER

It is our privilege to invite you and additional guests, who are interested in financially supporting the work of the Alliance for Christian Religious Education (ACRE), to our Fundraising Dinner at **Kingston House Impressions, 11 Channon Street, Gympie 4570, on Monday 13th May, 2024 at 6:30 pm (Arrival time from 6:15 pm)**. ACRE exists to help support and champion the local out-working of Christian RI in local state schools, so that every child may have the opportunity to question, explore and discover the Christian faith.

Our aim is to raise funds for the much-needed activities of ACRE and to employ a local Christian RI instructor in the Gympie area. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. You and your guests will be treated to a delicious two course meal and a presentation on the work of the Alliance for Christian Religious Education. To book a seat/RSVP follow the link <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/christian-ri-alliance-fundraising-dinner-tickets-880604430557>

For any questions or enquiries please email anita.searle@christianri.org.au
The dress code for the dinner is business attire.



**NEXT SUNDAY (5th May)
IN ST PETER'S @ 8.30 AM**

NEW PARISH CENTRE - UPDATE APRIL 2024

We have all the civil plans ready for OP Works approval and preliminary landscape design is underway.

We hope to have documentation completed in May/June and builder appointed June/July 2024. We have accepted fee proposals from all our consultants', and they have been on site making reports to Levi. These dates are our current expectations and are subject to various consultant's time frames so they could extend slightly but we are hoping to avoid this if possible and complete the project by the end of the year.



'TAP, SWIPE, INSERT' for Sunday Giving: EFTPOS is now available at the back of the church for contactless giving



PARISH PANTRY - DONATIONS

Non-perishable food items: canned foods, pasta & sauce, snack foods, long life milk, cereals, rice, tea, coffee, tuna snacks, muesli bars, 2-Minute noodles & toiletries etc. Please leave at St Peter's or church office (Tues-Fri).

Thank you for your support of this community outreach



How to contribute financially to our Church

For those who would like to contribute, please see the options below.

- 1) **Deposits may be made by internet transfer from your bank direct to our Church Bank Account using the following information:**

Account Name: Anglican Parish Gympie **BSB:** 704-901 **Account Number:** 0000 5910
Please use all the four zeros when entering the Account No. & Reference your donation
E.g. "Giving General" "..... Appeal" "Giving Tree", "Shoe Box" etc

- 2) **Using the QR Code to donate via Commonwealth Bank BPoint Credit Card website**

A) **If viewing on your computer or smart phone - click on the QR Code and it will take you to the B-Point website to make a donation by credit card** **OR**

B) **If reading a printed copy of pew sheet - hover your smart phone over the QR Code to link you to the BPoint website** →

Our bank details are already linked so you only need to add your details, credit card number & reference:

- 3) **Parish Direct via ANFIN** - An easy way of giving regularly:

Forms are available at the back of the Church or Church Office.



Sunday's ZOOM information

Topic: St Peter's Sunday Evening Service **Time:** Each Sunday @ 05:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting via computer or mobile device (Click or type link into your web browser) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7246788483> **Meeting ID:** 724 678 8483:

No password required

Please note ZOOM connection information does not change each week

Parish Contacts

RECTOR: The Rev'd Shaji Joseph

Wardens: Priest's:

Dr John ('Jack') Wright

People's: Rene Dekker

Sue Topalov

Treasurer: Bronwyn Saunders

CHURCH OFFICE: 15 Amy Street, Gympie

Office Hours: 9 am to 3 pm Tuesday to Friday

Church Office Phone: 5482 2629 / 0408 745 024

Church Email: anglican.gympie@bigpond.com

Website: www.anglicangympie.org.au

Facebook: [Anglican Church Gympie](#)

[Mainly music Gympie Anglican](#)

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